VZCZCXYZ0000 RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHPG #0316 1561222
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 051222Z JUN 09
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1442
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL PRAGUE 000316

SENSITIVE SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/P AND EUR/CE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/05/2019 TAGS: <u>PREL SMIG PARM PK EZ</u>

SUBJECT: CZECH REPUBLIC: POSITIVE SIGNALS ON MI-17S FOR

PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 55654

Classified By: Acting Political/Economic Counselor Scott Riedmann for r easons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Political-Military Officer delivered the reftel points on June 1 to Veronika Kuchynova-Smigolova, the Czech MFA's Director of Security Policy, and her deputy, Petr Chalupecky. Chalupecky and Kuchynova-Smigolova both expressed support for supplying MI-17s to Pakistan, but could not provide any details on the Czech's current inventory. They did share their personnel concern that the Czechs are already donating helicopters to Afghanistan and there may be limited refurbishment capacity for any possible transfer to Pakistan.
- 2.(C) Embassy Army Attache delivered the same reftel points to Simona Altschulova, the MOD's Director of International Relations, on June 1. During a follow-up meeting on June 3, Altschulova said that the Czechs were supportive and had some possible helicopters in their inventory. However, she said that they needed more details on timing, transfer mechanisms, and funding. The Embassy's Army Attache promised to get back to her with the required information as soon as possible.

 13. Embassy requests further guidance on the next steps. Thompson-Jones